

## NCP – 7 DAY THE GARDEN ROUTE - North

### Activity Package

This is an optional payment that covers what we consider to be ‘essential activities’ on our tours. Ideally we would include all of these, but not everyone can afford this. This payment is 100% transparent and is listed below. The Activity Package can be pre-purchased prior to your arrival or through your guide on day 1 of your tour. **This dossier has been written with the inclusion of the Activity Package items.**

Activity	Price
Spier Wine tasting plus cheetah entrance	R60
Cango Caves basic tour	R70
Tsitsikamma National Park entrance	R120
	R250

### Countries Visited

South Africa

### Vehicle

Adventure Truck

### Malaria

None Required

### Departure Point

8.00 am from Nomad Adventure Tours, 1st Floor Leadership House, 40 Shortmarket Street, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0) 82 578 2199

### End Point

Eltham Lodge, 5 Chalmers Road, Humewood, Port Elizabeth  
Tel: +27 (041) 586 1635 [www.elthamlodge.co.za](http://www.elthamlodge.co.za)

### What’s included

Meals as indicated on the itinerary (unless otherwise specified, all meals are prepared and served at the Nomad truck), accommodation, registered guides and transport. We also include some of the highlights. These highlights are listed below in the day-by-day descriptions as “included highlights”.

### What’s excluded

All items of a personal nature, alcohol, snacks, souvenirs, tips and optional activities (see list for an indication of prices).

### Health

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disability that you may have.

### Visas

Please note that these are your responsibility. See Pre Departure Booklet for more information.

Last updated: November 11

### Insurance

All clients require adequate Travel Insurance. Medical Insurance is not sufficient. Activity providers can refuse participation of activities, if the correct valid Travel Insurance is not provided. Travel insurance can be purchased via the Nomad website

[http://www.nomadtours.co.za/travel\\_insurance.html](http://www.nomadtours.co.za/travel_insurance.html)

(Nomad World travel insurance is in no way affiliated with Nomad Tours)

### Climate

The African sun is very strong. Please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. It can also get very cold during winter months on this route. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

### Currency and Banking

South African Rand is the only currency to use on this route. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information on each country. Travellers Cheques can take a long time to change into cash and often incur unreasonable charges. Credit Cards cannot always be processed – especially in remote areas.

### Vaccinations

No vaccinations are prescribed by law for the countries being visited on this tour. Please see the Pre Departure Information booklet for detailed information on vaccinations in Africa.

### Onward Travel

If you transfer to Johannesburg you can link this tour to the Okavango & Chobe Trail North tour, or the Discover Mozambique tour.

### Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you.

### Arrival

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any problems such as lost luggage, misplaced bags or any unforeseen problems such as airline strikes or delayed flight arrival.

### Departure

Please book your flight to depart the day after the tour officially ends. This is to account for any delays that we may experience due to unpredictable road conditions.

**Note: All information is subject to change without prior notice. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only. On our longer tours it is possible that your crew, truck and fellow travellers will change due to our unique tour linking system. On this tour, camping and accommodated clients will be travelling together with a maximum number of participants of 18.**

### Did you receive your Pre Departure Information Booklet?

If not please contact us at [nomad@nomadtours.co.za](mailto:nomad@nomadtours.co.za) and we will e-mail you the document; alternatively visit us at our office (1st Floor, Leadership House, 40 Shortmarket St, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town) to collect one. You can also download from our website at [www.nomadtours.co.za](http://www.nomadtours.co.za). **After hours contact number: +27 (0) 82 578 2199.**

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Country	Area	Activity	Price Range		
South Africa	Stellenbosch	Dinner at local restaurant	R150	to	R300
South Africa	Oudtshoorn	Ostrich Farm Visit	R65	to	R75
South Africa	Knysna	Lagoon Cruise	R250	to	R300
South Africa	Knysna	Knysna Elephant Encounter	R200	to	R220
South Africa	Knysna	Township Tour	R180	to	R280
South Africa	Knysna	Birds of Eden	R130	to	R150
South Africa	Knysna	Monkey Town	R130	to	R150
South Africa	Knysna	Predator Rehab: Cheetah walk & wildcat experience	R600	to	R650
South Africa	Knysna	Predator rehab: Wildcat experience	R160	to	R170
South Africa	Knysna	4x4 Forest drive and lunch	R350	to	R450
South Africa	Bloukrans Bridge	World Highest Bungee Jump	R720	to	R780
South Africa	Tsitsikamma NP	Treetop / Canopy Tour	R500	to	R550
South Africa	Tsitsikamma NP	Day hike – Tsitsikamma NP conservation fee	R50	to	R120
South Africa	Addo NP	Night game drive with SANP	R250	to	R350

### Note

There are more optional activities being created every day – we have listed only the most popular. If there is something specific you would like to do then speak to your guide as they will be able to assist you.

### Day 1 Stellenbosch Wine Route

Leaving the mother city of Cape Town behind, we drive to Stellenbosch to the Spier Wine Estate where we visit the Cheetah Breeding Centre before some excellent wine tasting a little later in the day. On clear days the magnificent mountain scenery makes for a memorable first day. On arrival at our accommodation stop for the night, your guides will brief you on what to expect from the days ahead. *Optional activity: Dinner out*

Meals:	Lunch
Accommodation:	Two per room: Rivierbos Guest House: <a href="http://www.rivierbos.co.za">www.rivierbos.co.za</a>
Facilities:	En suite, hot showers, Laundry & Internet (WiFi)
Route:	Cape Town to Stellenbosch: ± 45 km
Travel time:	±1 hour
Activity Package:	Wine tasting and entrance to Cheetah breeding project

### Stellenbosch

Stellenbosch was founded in 1679 and is the second oldest European settlement in the Western Cape Province, after Cape Town. It was named after Simon van der Stel, the Governor of the Cape Colony at the time, and it means “(van der) Stel’s forest”. The early settlers to this fertile region were encouraged to plant oak trees and Stellenbosch’s oak lined streets led to the town being known as “Eikestad” (village of oaks). Stellenbosch is situated on the banks of the Eerste River (“First River”), so named as it was the first river van der Stel reached and followed when Jan van Riebeeck sent him from Cape Town on an expedition over the Cape Flats to explore the territory now known as Stellenbosch. The Dutch were skilled in hydraulic engineering and they devised a system of furrows to direct water from the Eerste River through the town along Van Riebeeck Street to Mill Street where a mill was erected. Soon after the first settlers arrived, among them the French Huguenots, grapes were planted in the fertile valleys around Stellenbosch and soon it became the centre of the South African wine industry.

One of the first schools in South Africa opened in Stellenbosch in 1683, and in 1866 the Dutch Reformed Church opened a gymnasium which is known as the Stellenbosch Gymnasium. The Gymnasium, renamed in 1881 as Stellenbosch College, finally reached university status in 1918 and was renamed Stellenbosch University. More than 26 000 students attend Stellenbosch University today.

## Day 2 Route 62 – Oudtshoorn

Today we travel along the famous Route 62 towards Oudtshoorn and, time permitting, stop at Ronnie’s Sex Shop, not a sex shop at all, but a rather interesting country pub... We take a guided tour of the Cango Caves, which are some of the most impressive limestone caverns and the different formations are quite astonishing. You will have the opportunity to visit an Ostrich farm later in the afternoon. Tonight we stay in Oudtshoorn. *Optional Activities: Ostrich Farm visit.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Kleinplaas Holiday Resort Campsite <a href="http://www.kleinplaas.co.za">www.kleinplaas.co.za</a>
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers.
Route:	Stellenbosch to Oudtshoorn. ±400 km
Travel time:	± 5-6 hours
Activity Package:	Cango Caves Standard Tour

## Oudtshoorn – Ostrich Capital of the World

Oudtshoorn was known as the ostrich capital of the world. It was named after Baron Pieter von Rheede von Oudtshoorn, who died in 1773 on his way to the Cape to become Governor. The town was founded in 1847. The town is situated 300 m above sea level, with the Swartberg Mountain range to the north and Outeniqua range to the south. Arbeidsgenot, the home of Cornelius Jacob Langenhoven was built here. Langenhoven was the author of the old South African National anthem, “Die Stem” which still forms part of the new National Anthem.

Ostrich feathers were obligatory items of high fashion just before World War One. The great feather boom began around 1870. At its height there were more than 750 000 domesticated ostriches in the little Karoo area and feathers were being exported at the rate of about 450 000kg’s a year. Then came world war one and then austerity became a way of supporting the war effort. Many farmers went bankrupt in this time. In later years the industry revived with the demand for ostrich leather, biltong, eggs and feathers. At present there are about 90 000 ostriches in the Little Karoo.

## Cango Caves

Common myth has it that the Caves were first explored by a local farmer named Jacobus van Zyl (after who the first chamber, van Zyl’s Hall, was named) – although research fails to reveal anybody by that name in the Cango area in the 1770’s. And besides – we now know that the Caves have been known to man since the Early Stone Age.

In the 19th century, entrance to the Caves cost 5 rix dollars – the modern equivalent of about R500.00 – but that even didn’t deter some destructive tourists and many carted away parts of the delicate stalactites and stalagmites for souvenirs or engraved their names onto the walls. In response, the governor of the Cape Colony, Lord Charles Somerset, published the first Caves Regulation in 1820. The 1st law designed to protect an environmental resource in South Africa; it banned the collection of souvenirs, provided for fines for anyone caught damaging Caves formations and prescribed an entrance fee which had to be paid to the District Officer – who was made responsible for enforcing the rules.

Many of the most significant discoveries in the Caves were made by its first full-time guide, Johnnie van Wassenaar. – who served for 43 years: from 1891 until his retirement in 1934. He opened many side chambers and introduced thousands of people to Cango 1, which remains the only part of the Caves which the public may visit. Importantly, though, it is clear that the Caves were known to man long before Europeans first landed at the Cape: recent finds – of some tools left behind in ancient hearths in the Cave mouth – prove that humans have lived and sheltered here for at least 80 000 years.

## Day 3 Knysna / Plettenberg Bay

Today we cross over the magnificent Outeniqua Mountains to Knysna. Look out for whales and dolphins as we pass through Mossel Bay. Your afternoon is free to explore Knysna, one of South Africa’s most popular seaside towns. *Optional Activities: Knysna Elephant Park, Lagoon Cruise, Township Tour, Birds of Eden, 4x4 Forest drive with lunch, Predator Rehab, Monkey town.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Forever Resort Plettenberg Bay: <a href="http://www.foreverplettenberg.co.za">www.foreverplettenberg.co.za</a>
Facilities:	Shared ablutions, hot showers, swimming pool, kiosk, laundry
Route:	Oudtshoorn to Plettenberg Bay ±150 km
Travel time:	±2-3 hrs

## Knysna

Today's highlight is the Knysna Lagoon, a perfect spot for water sports or simply relaxing and admiring the striking beauty of The Heads. The town of Knysna, voted South Africa's favourite holiday town, nestles in the lagoon basin. It is protected by The Heads - two towering sandstone cliffs flanking a deep channel through which the tides flow. There are spectacular views and a cosy restaurant at the Eastern Head, and the Western Head is a privately owned nature reserve – Featherbed Bay.

The Knysna Lagoon is one of the few places in the world that supports an oyster hatchery, and the town is well-known for its fresh oysters, as well as its beer, made locally at Mitchell's Brewery. Rich in history, Knysna's museums are well worth visiting: the Millwood House Museum, and the Angling Museum in the Old Gaol. There are many other attractions, from the lush surrounding rainforests, the nearby Buffalo Valley Game, Featherbed Nature Reserve and Noetzie beach, to the wide selection of restaurants and craft markets. The forest, one of the largest areas of indigenous trees left in South Africa, is very dense and in some areas impenetrable. Knysna was originally founded by George Rex in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a port for the timber trade. The forest was nearly decimated as a result of logging, but escaped devastation due to far-sighted conservation policies introduced in the 1880s. The herds of forest elephants that once roamed the forest have not been so lucky, they have all disappeared and one lone female is said to remain today. The beautiful and elusive Knysna Loeries can still be seen in the area, as well as a large variety of other birds and a few small antelope.

## Day 4/5 Bloukrans and Tsitsikamma National Park

One of South Africa's best-kept secrets is the Tsitsikamma National Park. Boasting exceptional hiking trails and superb coastal scenery Tsitsikamma is a destination that many people will return to. The first few hours of the famous Otter Trail Hike are included in your Activity Package. For those needing an adrenaline boost the nearby Bloukraans Bridge is home to the world's highest bungee jump at 216m! *Optional Activities: Bungy jumping (highest in the world), treetop canopy tours, hiking.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Tube 'n Axe <a href="http://www.tubenaxe.co.za">www.tubenaxe.co.za</a>
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers, bar
Route:	Plettenberg Bay to Tsitsikamma. ±40 km
Travel time:	±1 hour
Activity Package:	Tsitsikamma National Park Entrance Fee

## Tsitsikamma National Park

Tsitsikamma National Park stretches between the sea and the Tsitsikamma Mountains, along the Garden Route, one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. The Park, covering 80km along the coast between Nature's Valley and Storm's River mouth, encompasses a range of different ecosystems - indigenous forest, commercial plantation, Fynbos, and inter-tidal zones – and offers magnificent scenery and walks. It was the first Marine National Park to be proclaimed in Africa, and it is now the third most frequently visited of the 20 national parks in South Africa. The forest has more than 30 species of indigenous trees - there are several massive trees, the tallest of these is 36 meters high, and some are more than 1000 years old.

## Day 6 Addo Elephant National Park

Continuing to the Eastern Cape, we enter Addo Elephant National Park, which is home to many of Africa's big game. Our truck gives us an elevated view on our game drive this afternoon, particularly for those photographic enthusiasts amongst us. *Optional activities: Night game drive with SANP*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Addo Elephant Park <a href="http://www.sanparks.org/parks/addo">www.sanparks.org/parks/addo</a>
Facilities:	Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers, restaurant, shop, swimming pool
Route:	Tsitsikamma to Addo. ±340 km
Travel time:	±4-5hrs
Included highlights:	Game Drive in Nomad Truck

## Addo Elephant Park

In 1919 the administration of the Cape Province decided to cull the elephant population in the Addo region and hired a Professional hunter, Major Jan Pretorius, to destroy the entire herd that inhabited the area at the time. It took him a year to kill 120, before he was stopped due to public outcry. Only 16 traumatised Addo elephants remained, wounded, frightened and unable to coexist with humans. In 1931, when only 11 elephants were left alive in the area, it was proclaimed a national park. The elephants, however, were still hostile - destroying crops and attacking anyone who came near. Finally, in 1952, one of the farmers of the area suggested that a fence be erected around the park. This kept the Elephants secure and out of the surrounding farming area. Black rhino was reintroduced in 1961- the first in the Cape for a hundred years. Today the Park is sanctuary to over 450 elephants, Cape buffalo, a variety of antelope species, as well as the flightless dung beetle, found exclusively in this area.

Addo elephants are unique in that although they belong to the same species as the African Elephant, they are smaller with more rounded ears and the females generally have no tusks.

## Day 7 – Port Elizabeth

After an early morning game drive in Addo we depart the National Park and drive to Port Elizabeth Airport where our tour will end.

Meals:	Breakfast
Accommodation:	Own arrangements/post-tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad.
Included Highlight:	Morning game drive in Addo in the Nomad truck

## Tour Ends

We will drop you off at the airport or Eltham Lodge [www.elthamlodge.co.za](http://www.elthamlodge.co.za). We suggest you book accommodation here for this evening through your travel agent or Nomad, however if you wish to fly out of Port Elizabeth the same day the tour ends, we suggest you book your flight for after 1pm.

## TIPPING ON TOUR

Southern Africa: In general tipping in restaurants is generally expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides.

Our guides do work hard, but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. We recommend USD1 (or about R5) per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 3-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 3 envelopes are used and each crew members name written on one. Place what you feel is fair in to each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

## THE NOMAD AFRICAN TRUST [www.nomadafricantrust.co.za](http://www.nomadafricantrust.co.za)

At Nomad we are passionate about the people, places and wildlife of Africa that make our tours so special. In order to give back we have set up the Nomad African Trust.

By the end of your tour you may have left-over local currency that you will not be able to change outside of its country of origin. Any assistance you could provide to the trust by donating this left over currency will be appreciated. Thank you for your help and please join our newsletter at the website above to receive regular updates on what we are doing to support our beneficiaries.



## GREEN SEATS - TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY IN AFRICA

Nomad gives you the opportunity to offset your carbon foot print by purchasing a "Green Seat". If you would like to help Nomad making Africa Greener, simply choose the tick box on your booking form and we will take care of the rest. The Nomad African Trust will plant trees that are ecologically viable and that have very high carbon absorption.



Green Seats can be purchased at departure or on tour with your guide. For more information on our "Green Seats", please visit [http://www.nomadtours.co.za/nomad\\_greenSeats.html](http://www.nomadtours.co.za/nomad_greenSeats.html)

## THANK YOU FOR TRAVELLING WITH NOMAD

At the end of your tour you will be provided with feedback forms. These forms are confidential and should be given to your crew in a sealed envelope. If you are not sure of the confidentiality of the feedback form please feel free to email us as well on [ops@nomadtours.co.za](mailto:ops@nomadtours.co.za). Please make sure to also complete the feedback form as we use the answers on these forms to improve and maintain our service levels.

*Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice, the accommodation listed in this dossier is our preferred supplier, but sometimes due to availability, we are unable to make use of the property listed in this dossier. If we cannot use the accommodation provider as listed we will substitute another property of similar standards.*